



ALBERTA'S
PUBLIC LAND AND
RESOURCES - PLANNING
FOR THE FUTURE

Alberta's public land and resources - planning for the future.

Have you ever wondered why industrial development is not permitted in certain mountain areas? How wildlife habitat is protected? Where tourism development is encouraged? What land is available for agricultural expansion? These are only a few of the questions that you might ask about the management of Alberta's public land and resources.

Alberta is rich in public lands and natural resources and there are many views about how these resources should be managed. Views on land and resource use vary because people place different values on activities such as camping, cattle grazing, fishing, logging or snowmobiling. Most land and resource use activities can be accommodated. When activities are not compatible, and competition and conflicts occur, difficult land and resource use decisions must be made. One way to resolve these conflicts and make good land management decisions is through integrated resource planning.

What is integrated resource planning?

"Integrated Resource Planning" is a land use decision-making program, coordinated by the Resource Planning Branch of Alberta Forestry, Lands and Wildlife. Integrated resource planning applies only to public land and resources. This program involves gathering information on resources and activities and considering the views of interested government departments, municipal authorities, interest groups and the public in making decisions for public land management. Integrated resource planning ensures that all concerns and interests are identified and considered.

Why do we plan?

The government of Alberta is responsible for managing public land and resources to provide a wide variety of benefits for Albertans. Resource management provides social, economic and environmental benefits, such as recreation opportunities, jobs and conservation of areas of natural beauty. Planning for the future use of public land and resources ensures the following:

- resource management decisions reflect the views of Albertans;
- all public land and resource activities are considered before decisions are made;
- there is communication among people interested in and affected by public land and resource use; and
- public land and resources will be maintained for the future.

An area of public land will be considered for an integrated resource plan if unresolved land and resource use issues exist and additional management direction is required.



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*Many views of Alberta's land
and resources*



How can a plan affect you?

Plans describe what will happen in an area and can change how public land is used. A plan might propose the use of public land and resources remains the same, is altered slightly or is changed completely, with new uses introduced. Such proposals can affect you; therefore, your involvement and views are important. Through participation, you can ensure your concerns are heard and the benefits important to you are considered. With your involvement, plans will reflect the views of the people of Alberta. Through the public involvement program, you have an opportunity to make your views known to the decision-makers. Everyone may not be fully satisfied with planning decisions, but through cooperation and compromise the majority of Albertans will benefit.

Who develops the plan?

A planning team is established to develop an integrated resource plan. Teams usually consist of staff from provincial government agencies who are responsible for managing a resource or are affected by resource management decisions. For example, a forester, biologist, district agriculturalist, geologist or park planner might be a team member.


Municipal authorities, federal government staff, public interest groups and individuals are also provided with opportunities to participate. This participation is key to the success of an integrated resource plan.

A team coordinator from the Resource Planning Branch leads the team in development of the plan. Coordinators must be unbiased and ensure all views are considered.

What does a plan provide?

Integrated resource plans provide direction for the future management of public land and resources. More specifically, a plan provides the following:

- objectives that show what benefits will occur in a planning area;
- guidelines that describe how these objectives will be achieved; and
- maps that detail where benefits will be achieved.



“Alberta's Integrated Resource Planning System involves broader participation and is, within its limits, almost a model land use planning system.”

From "Land Use Planning and Sustainable Development in Canada" - Nigel Richardson for Canadian Environmental Advisory Council.



Alberta's wetland resource



*H*ow does the planning process work?

The planning process involves gathering information, making choices and taking action. Information is collected on the planning area, and the planning team identifies land and resource management issues. These issues are then presented as terms of reference to the public to obtain their views and concerns.

The team analyzes resource information, considers alternative ways of using public land and resources, and recommends the most beneficial uses for a planning area. This results in a draft plan that is reviewed by the public. Following public review, the draft plan is modified and submitted to the Minister for approval.

An approved plan is put into action by government agencies and the private sector. For example, lands might be leased, range may be improved and areas developed for recreational use. Plans are flexible and may be altered as new information becomes available or situations change.

The chart outlines the five major steps of the planning process:

	STEP	REPORT PRODUCED	RESULTS ACHIEVED
INFORMATION	Initiating the plan	Terms of Reference	Concerns, issues, information and views regarding public land and resources in the planning area are gathered from the public, industry and municipal and provincial government representatives, and are used to focus the planning exercise.
	Developing the plan	Draft Plan	Recommendations are made on how resources and activities will be managed and developed. Public review of the plan occurs and conflicts are resolved. Maps show where resource management objectives will be met.
CHOICE	Finalizing the plan	Approved Plan	Outstanding conflicts are addressed by senior government committees. The plan is then approved by the Minister of Forestry, Lands and Wildlife and/or Cabinet committee.
	Implementing the plan	Implementation Plan	Responsibilities of government staff are identified so the plan can be put into action by resource managers.
ACTION	Reviewing the plan	Revised Plan	Amendments may be made to the plan on an ongoing basis. Progress is reviewed annually and major revisions made every five years or as needed. Public review of revised plans also occurs.





Alberta's rangeland resource



How can you participate?

A public involvement program is part of each integrated resource plan and provides many opportunities for you to influence decisions made in the plans. We value your suggestions, interests and concerns and encourage your participation at any time.

Many different techniques are used to encourage participation from a wide range of people. For example, you can obtain further information and let your views on the plan be known by:

- writing or talking to the team coordinator;
- reading information on the plan that you receive in the mail;
- requesting information through organizations to which you belong or getting your organization involved by arranging meetings with the team coordinator;
- checking the newspaper and post offices for announcements of public meetings; and
- attending meetings and filling out the available questionnaires.

What happens with the comments you make on a plan?

All public input received is recorded, summarized and considered by the planning team during development of the plan. Public input results in changes to the draft plan. Issues identified by the public and revisions made to the plan are highlighted at each review step.





Landscape logging in Alberta's Rocky Mountains



Why does planning take so long?

Planning takes a long time because land use and resource issues are complex. Resource information must be collected, conflicts resolved and changing public needs assessed before approvals are given. Consultation demands that adequate time be provided for planning teams, groups, individuals and elected representatives to review and comment on the plans. The greater the number of participants involved, the more time is needed.

How can you get more information?

To help you express your views on the use of public lands and resources directly to us, a toll-free phone number has been established for residents outside Edmonton. To call, dial zero (0) and ask the operator for Zenith 22289; in Edmonton, call 427-3608 (FAX 422-9684). If you prefer, write to the team coordinator working on the plan that interests you.

Mailing Address: Resource Planning Branch
Alberta Forestry, Lands and Wildlife
Main Floor, North Tower
Petroleum Plaza
9945 - 108 Street
Edmonton, Alberta
T5K 2G6

General information can be requested about the planning program or a specific plan. The Branch maintains mailing lists for each plan and also for a general information newsletter called Planning In Progress. Please let us know if you want to be added to our mailing list for a specific plan or for Planning In Progress.

The province has been divided into five administrative regions, with a regional resource coordinator assigned to each. The coordinator chairs a committee that is responsible for reviewing plans within its region and for ongoing plan implementation. Regional resource coordinators can be contacted at the following phone numbers:

Northeast Region
St. Paul, Alberta
645-6230

Peace River Region
Peace River, Alberta
624-6402

Central and Southern Regions
Lethbridge, Alberta
381-5430

Eastern Slopes Region
Rocky Mountain House, Alberta
845-8245

To dial (toll-free), refer to your AGT telephone directory under Government of Alberta for the RITE operator.





*The integration of
Alberta's land and resources.*

Help decide how to use your public land and resources.



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